# WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER
# DECEMBER 2025

A
DAY
THAT'S
FULL OF
HAPPINESS
FOR YOU AND
YOURS WE PRAY.
AND MAY A GLEAM
OF FRIENDLY CHEER
MELT ALL YOUR CARES
AWAY. WITH EVERY JOY
THAT HEART COULD WISH TO
LIGHT THE YULE LOG'S GLOW
ON FACES OF THE FRIENDS YOU
LOVE, O MAY THEIR NUMBER GROW.
LET SINGING VOICES FILL THE AIR AND
CHRISTMAS BELLS RING OUT. LET EVERYONE
WITH GLAD ACCOUNT, A JOYFUL MESSAGE SHOUT.
LET CHRIST ABIDE WITHIN YOUR HEART AND
HALLOW YOUR DESIRE AND HOME AND
MAY
YOU
SAY
WITH ALL OF US
"GOD BLESS US EVERYONE."

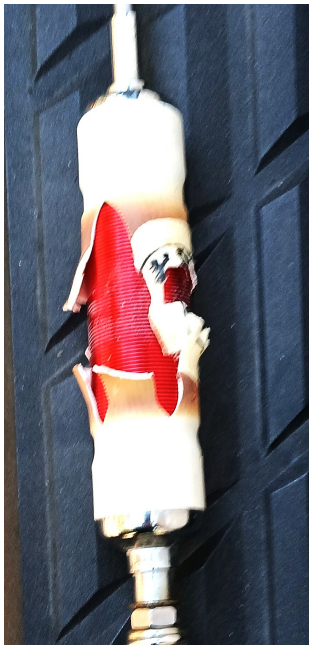
My thanks to Joe Homier, KA9VEC/SK and the Huntington County Amateur Radio Society of Indiana for the "tree" above.
Adopted from their 1992 Newsletter.

## WVAR CHRISTMAS DINNER

**The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club will be holding it's annual Christmas dinner at the Golden Corral on Goff Mountain Road in Cross Lanes on December 8, 2025. This is their regular meeting night. All hams, families and guests are invited. We will be in a separate private room. As usual, pay for your own buffet on entry.**

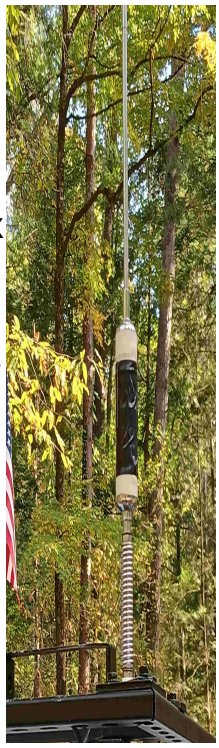
Two antennas met, fell in love and got married in a whirlwind romance. Everyone agreed the ceremony was okay, but their reception was wonderful.

**You have to give Marconi credit. He not only invented the radio, he invented the little knob to turn it off.**



### Don't Forget the Last Step!

*Bob Gibson, W8RLG, shares his recent experience while on vacation in the Smokey Mountains. It's a good lesson for us all.*



I set up the campsite, I set up the diesel heater, I pulled out the hitch mount, I mounted and extended the Eagle One, I connected the coax from the roof rack to the Eagle. **I FORGOT to change the coax on the back of the tuner from the 40M Hustler to the Eagle.**

I made contacts, I talked to (Tom) AB8RL back home, I sent Winlink emails and messages, I made some POTA contacts and ran some **FT8 with a little too much power for the Hustler.**

The next morning, I looked back at the truck and thought maybe a leaf was stuck to the hustler. A closer look indicated something worse. It still works after repair. (Pictured on the right.)

(We must share our failures too.)

73 Bob W8RLG

**My plans to get a new radio for Christmas were nipped in the budget!**

## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY
## DECEMBER 6-7, 2025

Skywarn Recognition Day will be observered on December 7, 2025 from 0000 to 2400 UTC (December 6, 1800 ET December 7 1800 ET) at most National Weather Service offices. This day originated in 1999 and honors the contributions of Amateur Radio Operators who provide critical weather information to the NWS.

All hams in the Charleston area are invited to the NWS office at the old Carbide Technical Center in South Charleston. Hams will be able to operate their Yaesu 991A radio during the nationwide Weather Service contest.

Please, contact Fred Vickers, WV8FV, Emergency Coordinator for Kanawha County ARES at fredvickers@gmail.com and let him know when you plan to drop in. If you can't visit your local NWS office, try to catch the hams who do on the radio for another contact.

## FREE DV (DIGITAL VOICE)

Bob Gibson, W8RLG, followed up his report on over powering his Hustler antenna with a presentation on **Free DV**, a suite of digital voice modes for HF radio. Its flagship mode is the Radio Autoencoder (RADE). You can run RADE using a free GUI application for Windows, Linux and OSX that allows any SSB radio to be used for high quality digital voice. To download the software go to https//freedv.org and click on the download tab.

FreeDV is unique, it uses completely Open Source Software, including the speech codec. No secrets, nothing proprietary. FreeDV represents a path for 21st-century Amateur Radio where Hams are free to experiment and innovate rather than a future locked into a manufacturer's closed technology. Unlike other software Free DV allows hams to be in control of their own technology. No company, or companies, own the patents for it.

According to their web site amateur radio is transitioning from analog to digital, just like it did from AM to SSB in the 1950s and 1960s. During W8LRG's presentation there was a tremendous improvement in the quality of the digital sound over analog reception from the same station on the same band. Also, during a lull in the discussion with his prearranged contact. W8LRG was contacted by a West Coast station that sounded like he was across the street. A final note, Bob was using Tom Gladdis', AB8RL, radio on a remote link through his computer over the hospital's wi-fi system.

I haven't downloaded FreeDV yet. But I plan on doing so within the next two to three weeks. By the time Bob gives us another presentation on it, I might know enough to ask intelligent questions.

## CW

In 1836 Samuel Morse built the first working telegraph. He also created the code that allowed telegraph operators to exchange information. The Morse Code is still used by telegraph, radio and signal light operators around the world. I know of at least one case of it being used to cheat at poker. In that case, I was the “cheatee' not the “cheater”. I'm not going to list the code here. Mainly because I can't type that well.

To learn the code for CW (Continuous Wave) it helps to think of it as sounds instead of dots and dashes or light flashes of different lengths. Dots are “dit”. Dashes are “dah”. Therefore, “A” is “dit dah” or “didah”.

A code practice oscillator makes it easier to learn the code. ARRL has a variety of materials to help beginners learn code and become proficient with it. “The CW Way of Life: Learning, Living, and Loving Morse Code (in a Digital World” by Chris Rutkowski is one book I have had reccommended to get me started. Another resource I've had reccomended is “The Rhythm of the Code”. This neat song has all the letters spelled out in a catchy tune. You can hear the di-dah's as the letters are spelled out.

## WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted back issues of WV SPLATTER on their website at www.wv8ar.com . I have decided to send out the WV Nets and WV Clubs listings as separate documents once each quarter rather than each month to reduce the number of pages sent out over and over. Corrections and updates to those items will be held until the next quarter.

I continually need more and different types of articles for WV SPLATTER. If you know of an event coming up in a couple of months, have an idea for an article you want to write, or something you want me to research and write about, then drop me an email at nettlescreek@frontier.com . I also need photos and artwork each month. Use the same address to submit email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in being on the WV SPLATTER Distribution List. They don't have to be in West Virginia, they don't even have to be a ham.

Advertisements for ham ham radio equipment, tools, and related items are welcome in this newsletter. Get them to me by the fifteenth of the month and I'll include them in the next months WV SPLATTER.

73 and thanks to all.

Jim Hudson, KE8PNY
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